

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR LEIDEL EUR/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, CGEN, ABLD, ASEC, AFAC
SUBJ: TORONTO OFFICE BUILDING

1. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT IT IS TIME FOR FBO AND OTHER INTERESTED OFFICES TO FOCUS IN ON TORONTO'S CONSULATE BUILDING WITH A DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING STRUCTURE WHICH IS LONG OVERDUE.
2. AS POINTED OUT IN NUMEROUS TELEGRAMS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH VISITING OFFICIALS CONSULATE PRESENT BUILDING IS PITYFULLY INADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC AND OUR OWN STAFFING AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS. IT OBVIOUSLY WILL NOT MEET ANY FUTURE NEEDS.
3. AMERICANS ARE FORCED INTO A TOTALLY INADEQUATE WAITING ROOM BUT AT LEAST THEY HAVE TOILETS AVAILABLE. OUR NIV PUBLIC, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS JAMMED INTO A COMPLETELY INADEQUATE WAITING ROOM AND BECAUSE OF SECURITY STRUCTURES DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO TOILETS EXCEPT THROUGH A COMPLICATED SYSTEM OF SECURITY RESTRAINTS. THE NONIMMIGRANT PUBLIC, THROUGHOUT ALL

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OF THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL HAS TO WAIT IN LINES OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING AND THE AVERAGE TIME SPENT IN THE OUTSIDE AND INSIDE LINES APPROXIMATES FOUR HOURS OR MORE DURING THESE HEAVY VOLUME PERIODS AND NOT MUCH LESS DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR.

4. SECURITY RENOVATION WAS RECENTLY MADE AND

ALTHOUGH OUR POSTURE VIS-A-VIS POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WAS IMPROVED, TO A LIMITED DEGREE, WITH THESE NEEDED RENOVATIONS NOTHING HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL SPACE AVAILABLE. IN FACT IT REDUCED OUR USEABLE SPACE.

5. WE SEE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO TORONTO'S NEEDS IS THE ADDITION OF A WING ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OR THE ADDITION OF 1-2 FLOORS TO THE EXISTING BUILDING.

6. THERE ARE MANY ELEMENTS TO THIS SOLUTION NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WOULD BE TO CONSOLIDATE AND CONFINE THE VISA OPERATIONS AND GENERAL PUBLIC AREAS TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE BUILDING. PRESENTLY THESE OPERATIONS EXIST THROUGHOUT ALL FLOORS OF THE BUILDING AND THE PUBLIC IS UNCONTROLLED ONCE ADMITTED PAST THE FRONT LOBBY. ANOTHER ELEMENT IS THE GROWING REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON CONGEN BY OTHER U.S. AGENCIES FOR SPACE WITHIN THE BUILDING. PRESENTLY USIS OCCUPIES SPACE IN THE BUILDING AND DEA OCCUPIES EXTREMELY INADEQUATE SPACE. WE ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO PROVIDE IRS OFFICE SPACE AND WAITING ROOM SPACE FOR FIVE MONTHS OF EACH YEAR FOR THE TAXPAYER'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALONE, NOT TO MENTION PERIODIC VISITS TO PERFORM SCHEDULED TAX AUDITS. WE HAD TO DISCONTINUE SSA'S USE OF THE BUILDING DUE TO THE SHAMEFUL TREATMENT ACCORDED THEIR CLIENTS
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DUE SOLELY BECAUSE OF THE UNACCEPTABLE AREA SSA HAD TO OCCUPY WHILE ON THEIR PERIODIC VISITS. IN FACT WHEN THEY WERE USING THE BUILDING INTERVIEWS TOOK PLACE IN THE FURNACE ROOM AND THE PUBLIC HAD TO WAIT IN THE BASEMENT HALL. ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS THE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATION WHICH IS NOW SPLIT INTO THREE AREAS, NONE OF WHICH MEETS BASIC SECURITY STANDARDS. WHILE WE ARE NOT PRIVILEGED TO THE PRIORITY LIST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE TERP PROGRAM SUCH ON-LINE CAPABILITIES ARE SURE TO FOLLOW IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE FOR TORONTO. WE BELIEVE SUCH AN ADDITION WOULD REQUIRE MUCH MORE AREA THAN IS PRESENTLY UTILIZED BY OUR C&R OPERATION.

7. THE FLOOR PLAN OF THE PRESENT BUILDING AND THE POSITION OF THE ENTRY DOOR AND OTHER FIXED MACHINERY, E.G. ELEVATOR MAKES IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO REARRANGE OFFICES AND CREATE MORE USEABLE SPACE WITHIN THE EXISTING STRUCTURE.

8. WE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT WE ARE NOT EXPERTS ON THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF SPACE NOR DO

WE POSSESS THE SKILLS OF DESIGN ARCHITECTS, BUT WE WORK
AND CARRY OUT OUR STATUTORY FUNCTIONS EACH DAY IN THIS
BUILDING AND WE KNOW THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH WE NOW
OPERATE IS UNDESIRABLE, INEFFICIENT AND THE CAUSE
OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC BOTH AMERICAN AND OTHERS.
ATTEMPTS ON OUR PART TO IMPROVE OUR PRESENT POSTURE
UTILIZING THE EXISTING BUILDING SPACE HAS FAILED
BECAUSE WE CANNOT EXPAND.

9. WE WELCOMED YOUR VISIT TO TORONTO TO SEE FIRST
HAND OUR NEEDS AND RECOMMEND THAT FBO SURVEY OUR
PRESENT STRUCTURE AND URGENTLY DEVELOP WITH US VIABLE
PLANS TO EXPAND OUR SPACE IN ORDER THAT WE CAN MEET
PRESENT REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THIS CONSULATE.
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